(d) and (e) RBI does not maintain information on number of workers that have been rendered unemployed due to sickness/lockout and the amount of revenue loss per year due to these SSI units. However, the amount outstanding with these sick SSI units as at the end of March, 2002 was Rs. 4.31 crores.

Mission to Moon

2694. SHRIB. J. PANDA:

MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether ISRO has planned a mission around the orbit of Moon by the year 2007;

(b) whether certain foreign countries have evinced interest to join this mission, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas where the space research is being focussed; and

(d) whether the country possess a launch vehicle capability for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) An Unmanned Moon Mission has been planned for 2008-09.

(b) Yes, Sir. Interest has been shown by the European Space Agency (ESA) and Canadian Space Agency (CSA). However, details have not yet been worked out.

(c) It is proposed to carry out high-resolution remote sensing of the Moon in visible, near infrared, low energy x-rays and high energy x-ray regions. This would enable us to study the origin and chemical evolution of the moon, its geological features, impact phenomena, survey of its precious resources such as Helium -Three, which is considered to be a potential source of cleanest energy, with minimum residual radio-activity.

(d) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to use the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) for the Mission.

Unmanned spaceship to Moon

2695. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

SHRI RAJEEVSHUKLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to launch an unmanned spaceship to moon;

(b) if so, the purpose and the cost involved in this venture; and

(c) what is the urgency for such a venture when a lot of developmental activities are held up for want of funds and what public interest and removal of poverty are going to be served by such a venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) In consonance with the mandate of Indian Space Research Organisation for research in space sciences and based on the interest of the scientific community, an unmanned spacecraft mission around moon has been planned.

(b) The main purpose of the mission is to study the hitherto unexplored aspects of the moon and to expand the horizon of our scientific knowledge and also to upgrade our technological capability. The cost of the mission is presently estimated to be Rs. 386.00 crores.

(c) Such a deep space mission would throw-up challenges to our vision and scientific knowledge and upgrade our technological capabilities. Moon can be the outpost for further planetary exploration. The technological up-gradation involved in this mission would provide several spin-offs in the areas of mineral prospecting, power generation, communication systems, etc.

Launch of PSLV

2696. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) by when the PSLV (C-5) is likely to be launched;

(b) whether the burning of cables near the launch pad in a fire is likely to affect the launching; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The PSLV (C-5) mission is planned to be launched during October, 2003 and will carry the 1360 kg. IRS-P6 (RESOURCE SAT-I) satellite.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Data cables are laid in a concrete trench connecting the launch complex with various facilities located in Satish Dhawan Space Centre